GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:8
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015
Welfare of Beedi Workers
Mondal Shri Sunil Kumar;Mukherjee Shri Abhijit

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether a major part of beedi workers belong to backward castes and most of them are illiterate and if so, the details of such workers, State/UT-wise;
(b)whether the Government proposes to rehabilitate beedi workers in the country who are unemployed due to closure of some beedi factories and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c)whether the Government has any plan for providing education and proper vocational training to such workers and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(d)whether the Government is aware of the health problems of the beedi workers and if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
(e)the various social security schemes being implemented particularly for beedi workers along with the estimated number of such workers benefitted during each of the last three years and the current year,
State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): Yes, majority of the beedi workers in the country belong to the backward classes and most of them are illiterate. However, separate details of these workers are not maintained.
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(b): The Labour Welfare Organisation had initiated an endeavor in the year 2008-09 to provide alternate employment to the Beedi workers whose traditional employment of Beedi making is perishing slowly. The details of the beneficiaries and expenditure incurred so far region wise are attached at Annexure I.
(c): The Government is providing financial assistance for education ranging from Rs.250/- to Rs.15000/- per annum to the wards of beedi workers studying from Class I to Professional degree.
The details of vocational training provided to the beedi workers as alternative source of income for their better livelihood is mentioned in the reply at point "b" above.
(d): The Government has implemented various schemes for providing medical and healthcare to the beedi workers. The details are placed at Annexure - II.
(e): Various Social security schemes are being implemented for the benefit of beedi workers which are detailed at Annexure - III.